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Approved For Release 2006/05/24 : CIA-RDP72-00039R000100450010-9

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
REGION 3
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20407

10 JUL 1967

June 29, 1967

GSA REGIONAL BULLETIN FPMR 3-A-12
GENERAL

TO: Heads of Federal Agencies and Field Offices Located
in General Services Administration, Region 3

SUBJECT: Civil Defense Warning Signals and Tests

1. Purpose. This bulletin announces changes in the Civil Defense Warning Signals and dates of testing of the Warning Signal Systems as promulgated by Region 2, Office of Civil Defense, by memorandum of June 8, 1967.

2. Effective dates. The changes in the Civil Defense Warning Signals are effective immediately. The Civil Defense Warning Signal System testing dates and times are effective July 12, 1967, in the Metropolitan Washington area. Outside the Metropolitan Washington area the testing dates and times will remain as prescribed by the local authorities.

3. Expiration date. This bulletin contains information of a continuing nature and will remain in effect until canceled.

4. General. The probable short warning time in the missile age and the increasing danger of fallout require that first priority in survival planning be given to movement to shelters or, lacking shelters, to taking the best cover immediately available. Persons serving as wardens in building protection programs, as well as all Government employees, should be made aware of this and of the civil defense changes in warning signals and times of testing. Agency cooperation is requested in indoctrinating employees concerning this matter.

5. New Civil Defense Warning Signals. The meaning and application of the Civil Defense Warning Signals as recently redefined by the Office of Civil Defense, Office of the Secretary of the Army, are as follows:

a. The Attack Warning Signal formerly the Take Cover Signal. The nature of the signal remains the same, namely a wavering tone or a series of short blasts. The duration, formerly three minutes, is now three to five minutes. The

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new meaning of this signal is: An actual attack against this country has been detected. Take protective action immediately.
Take the best available shelter.

b. The Attention or Alert Signal formerly the Alert Signal. The nature and duration of the signal are unchanged, namely a steady blast of three to five minutes. The new meaning for this signal is: Listen for essential emergency information. This may refer to a natural disaster or other critical situation. Public explanation and instructions will be disseminated by local broadcast stations or other methods of communication. The use of this signal is optional by the local government. Its use in the Metropolitan Washington area is not contemplated at this time.

6. Change in times of testing.

a. Within Metropolitan Washington area. Effective at 11 a.m., July 12, 1967, and at the same time on the second Wednesday of each month thereafter, the Washington Warning Center, Office of Civil Defense, Region 2, will test the outdoor Civil Defense Warning System and the indoor Civil Defense Bell and Light System in the Metropolitan Washington area. These tests will be publicized in news media.

b. Outside Metropolitan Washington area. Testing of the Civil Defense Warning Systems outside the Metropolitan Washington area is not effected.

7. Employee action. Unless otherwise advised in advance, Government employees will remain at their work stations during these tests.

8. Civil Defense Instructions Chart. The new Civil Defense Instructions Chart is attached. This chart will be posted by GSA in all GSA-controlled buildings in the near future.

David Phillips
DAVID PHILLIPS
Regional Administrator

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Remarks:

Attached is my Vital Records Report.

I am also including, as an extra attachment, a GSA Regional Bulletin FPMR 3-A-12 regarding Civil Defense Warning Signals and Tests. I think paragraph 4 of this FPMR will substantiate my opinions concerning Evacuation.

Jerry

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